

DECLASSIFIED PA/HO Department of State E.O. 12958, as amended June 21, 2006

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TEHRAN 2488

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NEAZIRN FOR AMBASSADOR FARLAND

THIS IS SECOND IN SERIES MESSAGES ON PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTES: VISIT: ATMOSPHERE AND CONDITIONS IN IREN

REF TEHRAN 2440

PRESIDENT WILL BENVISITING IRAN WHERE ATMOSPHERE IS MIXTURE OF PRIDE CONFIDENCE AND ANXIETY - ROUGHLY IN EQUAL PROPORTIONS.

A. PRIDE.

THERE IS IMMENSE FEELING OF PRIDE - PARTICULARLY AT TOP
LEVELS BUT ALSO INCREASINGLY AMONG GENERAL POPULACE (WHERE, AS
RESULT OF PRE-1920 HISTORY) THERE HAS LONG BEEN STRONG ELEMENTOF
CYNICISM OR DOUBT RE TRANS ABILITY CATCH-UP WITH MODERN WORLD OF
WEST OR CONTROL ITS OWN DESTINY) -- IN

* ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL STABILITY ACHIEVED OVER BASE DECADE! E. . A PRIME MINISTER NOW IN EIGHTH YEAR WITH NO MAJOR GOVERNMENT SHAKE-UPS OR THREATS TO STABILITY OVER SAME PERIOD! GROWTH RATE OF MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OVER PAST FIVE YEARS, WITH 12 TO 13 PERCENT RATE REALISTICALLY EXPECTED IN CURRENT IRANIAN YEAR.

2. FACT THAT IRAN. SINCE LATE 1960'S HAS BEEN PAYING OWN WAY
[I.E. DEVELOPMENT HAS NOT DEPENDED UPON FOREIGN AID OR ASSISTANCE. WITH MINOR EXCEPTIONS WHICH JUST BARELY INCLUDE US) AND HAS

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ACHIEVED AN INTERNATIONAL STATUS AND POWER WHICH MAKE IT COUNTRY TO BE RECKONED WITH IN REGIONAL CONTEXT.

THIS PRICE IS BOUSTERED WHEN IRANIANS COMPARE THEIR RECORD OF RECENT PAST WITH THAT OF ANY OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRY) PARTICULARLY COUNTRIES IN AREA STRETCHING FROM SOUTH EAST ASIA TO EUROPEAN MAINLAND.

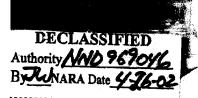
THIS PRIDE HAS GENERATED NOT ONLY FEELING OF EQUALITY TOWARD FOREIGN COUNTRIES BUT ALSO FEELING THAT IRAN HAS, AT LONG LAST, ARRIVED ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND SHOULD NOW BE REGARDED AS MODERN, PROGRESSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE MEMBER IN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. THIS WAS, IN OUR VIEW, ESSENTIAL MESSAGE WHICH SHAH SOUGHT TO GET ACROSS TO HIS PEOPLE AND WORLD BY 25TH CENTENARY CELEBARTIONS LAST FALL.

B. CONFIDENCE.

THERE IS ALSO WIDE SPREND CONFIDENCE AT UPPER LEVELS HERE THAT IRANTS (I) STRONG AND FAR-SIGHTED LEADERSHIP; (2) WEALTH-OF HUMAN TALENT AT DISPOSAL OF LEADERSHIP (E.G. 19 OUR OF 24 CABINET MINISTERS) AS WELL AS LARGE NUMBER SUB- CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS, HAVE BEEN EDUCATED IN WEST-MANY WITH HIGHER DEGREES); (3) CAPACITY TO MANAGE IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCES (PRIMARILY OIL BUT ALSO OTHERS) IN WAY THAT THEY ARE BEING TRANSFORMED FROM POTENTIAL INTO ACTUAL AND USEABLE WEALTH; AND (+) MANAGEABLE POPULATION GROWTH PROBLEM-ALL COMBINE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR IRAN TO CONTINUE ENJOY REMARKABLE GROWTH AND STABILITY OF PAST DECADE AND, AT SAME TIME, BUILD UP MODERN AND EFFICIENT MILITARY FORCE REQUIRED TO HELP COUNTER EFFORTS TO BRING VITAL PERSIAN GULF AREA UNDER CONTROL OF FORCE HOSTILE TO FRAN AND WEST-

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT TOP LEVELS FAIL TO RECOGNIZE RAPID ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVANCES ARE PRODUCING INCREASING PROBLEMS AND PRESSURES. E.G. FOR MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, PARTICULARLY AS BETWEN RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION; FOR MORE WIDE SPREAD PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNING PROCESS: FOR GREATER FREEDOM IN DISCUSSING/ESPOUSING ALTERNATIVES TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICIES. FOR MORE AND BETTER EDUCATION FACILITIES, ETC. BUT TOP LEVELS PARTICULARLY SHAH, FACE SUCH PROBLEMS AND PRESSURES WITH FEELING (A) THEY ARE INEVITABLE PART OF DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: (B) THEY CAN BE EFFECTIVELY COUNTERED BY TIMELY GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND REFORMS:

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AND (C) THUS, THEY DO NOT AND WILL NOT THREATEN EITHER BASIC POLITICAL STABILITY OR ECONOMIC/SOCIAL GROWTH. (ALTHOUGH WES WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE GOI TO FOCUS MORE ACTIVELY AND INTENSELY ON ACTIONS AND REFORMS NEEDED TO COUNTER SUCH PRESSURES, WE BASICALLY SHARE THIS GENERAL FEELING. T

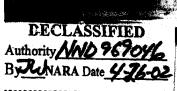
C. ANXIETY.

DESPITE SOURCES OF PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE NOTED ABOVE. THERE ARE ALSO TWO STRONG EMEMENTS OF ANXIETY IN CURRENT IRAN.

IN AMONG TOP LEVELS, THERE IS GREAT ANXIETY RELATED TO
DEVELOPMENTS IN AREAS SURROUNDING IRAN AND POSSIBLE OVER-FLOW
EFFECTS WITHIN IRAN (E.G. IRAGI-INSTIGATED SUBVERSION AND
TERRORISM) -- WITH PARTICULAR CONCERN WITH OTHER COUNTRIES HOSTILE
TO IRAN AND EXPLOITING SITUATIONS OF WEAKNESS TO SOUTH (IN BULF)
AND EAST LAFGHARISTAN AND DISMEMBERED PAKISTAN), TO TENCIRCLET
IRAN AND REDUCE OR REMOVE WESTERN INFLUENCE FROM AREA RUSSIA
HAS HISTORICALLY WANTED AS SPECIAL BAILIWICK. (THIS CONCERN
WILL BE DISCUSSED IN BREATER DETAIL IN SEAPATE MESSAGE.)

2. IN ADDITION, JUST BELOWS FOR LEVELS, THERE ISS CONSIDERABLE ANXIETY THAT FOR AN TRANSS STABLETTY AND PROGRESS ARE TOO EXCLUSIVELY DEPENDENT UPON SHAH!S FIRM LEADERSHIP! (B) THAZI HIS PREMATURE REMOVAL FROM SCENE COULD PLUNG TRANSBACK INTO PERIOD OF SERIOUS POLITICAL TURMOIL AND INSTABILITY AND BRING ECONOMIC ANDESOCIALEPROGRESSETBEHALFT: AND (CC) THATESHAH; INCHES IMPATIENCE. TO MOVE COUNTRY AHEAD NOW, IS FAILENG TO PREPARE ENSTITUTIONS AND LEADERS THAT COULD MAKE TRANSITION TO POST SHAH TRAN WITHOUT SERTOUS POLITICAL TURMOIL AND WITHOUT SERTOUS DAMAGE TO SOCHAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS THERE IS IN OUR VIEW, UNDOUBTEDLY REASON FOR CONCERNION THIS SCORE, AND IT WOULD BE HEMPFULL IF PRESIDENT COULD DISCREETLY ENCOURAGE SHAH TO GIVE GREATER THOUGHT NOW TO INSTITUTIONAL MAND LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS OF FUTURE WITHOUT HIM. AT SAME TIME, WE DO NOT BELIEVE PREMATURE REMOVAL OF SHAH FROM SCENE WOULD PRODUCE CONSEQUENCES AS SERIOUS AS THOSE DUTLINED ABOVE. OUT NUTSHELL PROGNOSIS FOR BALANCE OF THIS DECADE IS: IF SHAH REMAINS AT HELM (AS EXPECTED) . CHANCES THAT IRAN WILL CONTINUE REMARKABLE POLITICAL STABILITY AND GROWTH OF PAST DECADE AR EXCELLENT: IF SHAH REMOVED FROM SCENEN. CHANCES WOULD BE REDUCED -- BUT STILL GOOD .)

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IN SUM, PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE AT TIME WHEN SHAH VERY LIKELY:

(A) POINT WITH RRIDERTO FRAN ASOULY (LEAVING ASIDE ISRAEL STRONG, STABLE AND PREGRESSIVE COUNTRY - WITH FRIENDSHIP FOR US - INCREGION BETWEEN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND EUROPEAN NATO WHICH IS OTHER-WISE BESET WITH POLITICAL TURMOIL OR INSTABILITY, WEAKNESS, SERIOUS DEVELORMENT PROBLEMS OR SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WITH U.S. .

(B) STRESS TO PRESIDENT THAT IRAN ISCONLY COUNTRY IN REGION WHICH IS BOTH FRIENDLE TO USS. AND HAS WILL AND CAPACITY TO HELP ACT AS COUNTER TO INTERNATIONAL FORCES WHICH THREATEN MIDDLE EAST AND ARE ATTEMPTING BRING PERSIAN GULF, AND ITS VITAL OIL RESOURCES UNDER CONTROL OF HANDS HOSTILE TO WEST AND IRAN AND

(C) GIVEN PRINCIPAL ANXIETY ON HIS MIND, BE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN PRESIDENT'S ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET INTENTIONS AND LEKELY FURTHER MOVES IN AREAS SURROUNDING IRAN-WAND WHAT US FOR ITS PART INTENDS TO DO IN REACTION GP=3.